

HOUSE BILL No. 1344

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 10-17.

Synopsis: Veterans' issues. Requires the county executive of Marion County to employ a county service officer. Changes the definition of "qualified service member" for purposes of the military family relief fund law to mean an individual who: (1) is: (A) an Indiana resident; (B) a member of the armed forces or the National Guard; and (C) serving on active duty during a time of national conflict or war; or (2) who: (A) is an Indiana resident; (B) served in the armed forces of the United States, or the National Guard during a time of national conflict or war; and (C) received an honorable discharge from service.

Effective: July 1, 2015.

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January 13, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety.



First Regular Session of the 119th General Assembly (2015)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2014 Regular Session and 2014 Second Regular Technical Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1344

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning military and veterans.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 10-17-1-9, AS AMENDED BY P.L.105-2014,
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 9. (a) **Except as provided in subsection (e)**, a
4 county executive:
5 (1) shall designate and may:
6 (A) appoint a county service officer for a four (4) year term; or
7 (B) employ a county service officer; and
8 (2) may employ service officer assistants;
9 to serve the veterans of the county.
10 (b) The fiscal body of a city may provide for the employment by the
11 mayor of a city service officer and service officer assistants to serve the
12 veterans of the city.
13 (c) If the remuneration and expenses of a county or city service
14 officer are paid from the funds of the county or city employing the
15 service officer, the service officer shall:



(1) have the same qualifications and be subject to the same rules as the director, assistant director, and state service officers of the Indiana department of veterans' affairs; and

(2) serve under the supervision of the director of veterans' affairs.

A service officer assistant must have the same qualifications as an employee described in section 11(b) of this chapter. A rule contrary to this subsection is void.

(d) County and city fiscal bodies may appropriate funds necessary for the purposes described in this section.

(e) In Marion County, the county executive shall employ a county service officer and may employ county service officer assistants to serve the veterans of the county.

SECTION 2. IC 10-17-12-0.7, AS AMENDED BY P.L.169-2013, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 0.7. (a) The purpose of the fund established in section 8 of this chapter is to provide:

(1) short term financial assistance to families of qualified service members for ~~hardships that result from the qualified service members' active duty service;~~ **assistance with food, housing, utilities, medical services, basic transportation, child care, education, employment or workforce, and other essential family support expenses that have become difficult to afford for qualified service members or dependents of qualified service members;** and

(2) funding for:

(A) grants for reimbursement for training; and

(B) the purchase of computer equipment and software;

for county and city veterans' service officers.

(b) Funding for the purposes described in subsection (a)(2) must be provided from the amount transferred to the fund under section 13 of this chapter.

SECTION 3. IC 10-17-12-7.5, AS ADDED BY P.L.50-2009, SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015]: Sec. 7.5. As used in this chapter, "qualified service member" means an individual:

(1) who is:

~~(1)~~ **(A)** an Indiana resident;

~~(2)~~ **(B)** a member of:

~~(A)~~ **(i)** the armed forces; or

~~(B)~~ **(ii)** the National Guard; and

~~(3)~~ **(C)** serving on active duty:

~~(A)~~ **(i)** after September 11, 2001; and



- 1 ~~(B)~~ (ii) during a time of national conflict or war; **or**
2 **(2) who:**
3 **(A) is an Indiana resident;**
4 **(B) served in the armed forces of the United States or the**
5 **National Guard during a time of national conflict or war;**
6 **and**
7 **(C) received an honorable discharge from service.**

